

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (currently amended) An exposure apparatus for forming an image on an object by using exposure light having a wavelength range in which oxygen absorbs the exposure light, comprising:

an ozone removing filter disposed in a ~~flow-path~~ circulation passage of a gas ~~supplied to~~ circulating in an area including a light path of the exposure light, the ozone removing filter being adapted to remove ozone produced in the exposure apparatus from the gas.

Claim 12 (previously added) An exposure apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the ozone is produced by the exposure light.

Claim 13 (previously added) An exposure apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the ozone is produced in the area during formation of an image on an object by the exposure light.

Claim 14 (currently amended) An environmental control apparatus for controlling a working environment in an exposure apparatus for forming an image on an object by using exposure light having a wavelength range in which oxygen absorbs the exposure light, comprising:

an ozone removing filter disposed in ~~flow-path~~ a circulation passage of a gas ~~supplied to~~

circulating in an area including a light path of the exposure light, the ozone removing filter being adapted to remove ozone produced in the exposure apparatus from the gas.

Claim 15 (currently amended) An exposure apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising a temperature control system adapted to control the temperature of the gas ~~supplied to~~ circulating in the area, and wherein the ~~flow path~~ circulation passage of the gas is a ~~circulation~~ passage made by the temperature control system.

Claim 16 (previously added) An exposure apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the ozone removing filter is disposed downstream of the flow path of the gas relative to the area, wherein the temperature control system is adapted to control the temperature of the gas after passing the ozone removing filter, and wherein the controlled gas is supplied to the area.

Claim 17 (previously added) An exposure apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising ozone detection sensors which are respectively disposed upstream and downstream of the ozone removing filter.

Claim 18 (previously added) An exposure apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the ozone removing filter is monitored on the basis of outputs from the ozone detection sensors.

Claim 19 (previously added) An exposure apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the ozone removing filter includes at least one of active carbon and ion-exchange resin.

Claim 20 (previously added) An exposure apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the area includes at least one of a first space between a mask and an illumination optical system to illuminate the mask, a second space between the mask and a projection optical system to transfer a pattern formed onto the mask, and a third space between the object and the projection optical system.

Claim 21 (currently amended) An environmental control apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising a temperature control system adapted to control the temperature of the gas ~~supplied to~~ circulating in the area, and wherein the ~~flow path~~ circulation passage of the gas is a ~~circulation passage~~ made by the temperature control system.

Claim 22 (previously added) An environmental control apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the ozone removing filter is disposed downstream of the flow path of the gas relative to the area,

wherein the temperature control system is adapted to control the temperature of the gas after passing the ozone removing filter, and

wherein the controlled gas is supplied to the area.

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Claim 23 (previously added) An environmental control apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the ozone removing filter includes at least one of active carbon and ion-exchange resin.

Claim 24 (previously added) An environmental control apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the exposure light is an ArF excimer laser.

Claim 25 (previously added) An exposure apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the ozone is produced in the third space between the object and the projection optical system within the exposure apparatus.